

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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MAJOR GENERAL FREDERIC HARRISON SMITH, JR., USAF

Frederic H. Smith, Jr., was born at Fort Monroe, Virginia, June 30, 1908, the son of Major General (retired) and Mrs. Frederic H. Smith. He was graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and commissioned a second lieutenant of Field Artillery June 13, 1929.

After attending the Air Corps Primary and Advanced Flying Schools at Brooks Field, Texas, and Kelly Field, Texas, respectively, he transferred to the Air Corps in December, 1930, and was assigned to France Field, Canal Zone, for duty with the 63rd Service Squadron. After serving with the 24th Pursuit Squadron, also at France Field, he returned to the States in December, 1932, and the following January was assigned to the 41st School Squadron at Kelly Field.

After three years as a flying instructor at Kelly Field, he served as Senior Aeronautical Inspector for the Panama Canal, Balboa Heights, Canal Zone, during the years from 1936 to 1939. It was during this assignment that he acted as adviser on aviation matters to the Governor of the Panama Canal.

During the latter part of 1939 he served as operations officer for the 36th Pursuit Squadron at Langley Field, Virginia. A few months later he assumed command of the squadron. Within a year after he took over his first command he was selected as commanding officer of the Eighth Pursuit Group, Seventh Pursuit Wing, at Mitchel Field, New York.

In January, 1942, he was sent to the Southwest Pacific, where he served as group commander of the Eighth Fighter Group in the Fifth Air Force. Later that year he became chief of staff of the Advanced Echelon of the Fifth Air Force.

After two years of combat service in the Pacific, he was transferred to the European theater of operations, where he served as deputy senior air staff officer and chief of operations of the Allied Expeditionary Air Forces.

In the fall of 1944, he returned to the United States to become Deputy Chief of Air Staff at AAF headquarters at Washington. The following month he returned to the Southwest Pacific, this time to direct the Fifth Fighter Command in its ever-increasing attacks against Japan.

At the end of the war, he was ordered to Washington for duty in the Office of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff-5 at AAF headquarters. In January, 1946, he was assigned to the Special Organizational Planning Group, where he served until his appointment in April of that year as chief of staff of

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Strategic Air Command at Andrews Field, Maryland. After nearly a year of service at Strategic Air Command, he was appointed National Commander of the Civil Air Patrol in February, 1947.

On October 10, 1947, after USAF headquarters was established, he was appointed chief of the Requirements Division under the Director of Training and Requirements in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. He was appointed assistant for programming in that office in February, 1948.

General Smith has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit, and Air Medal. He is rated a Command Pilot.

General Smith's wife is the former Miss Martha King, daughter of Fleet Admiral Ernest King. They have two sons, Frederic and Jimmie.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant on October 1, 1934; to captain on June 13, 1939; to major (temporary) on March 15, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on January 5, 1942; to colonel (temporary) on August 8, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) on November 12, 1943; to major (permanent) on June 13, 1946; to major general (temporary) on October 30, 1947; to colonel (permanent) on April 2, 1948; to brigadier general (permanent) on January 27, 1950, with date of rank from September 24, 1949.

END

Up to date as of 2 February 1950.